

MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 19, 2008

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Bassett, Buck, Lucero, McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Roberts, Twineham
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** None
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** Mark McGee & David Ault, MG Disposal
- STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Ferrier, Assistant City Manager City Treasurer/Revenue & Utility Services Manager Phyllis Garrova, Senior Planner Allen, and Clerical Support Norton
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of October 15, 2008 were approved as amended.

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

Representatives from MG Disposal

ACTION ITEMS

- a) Consider cancellation of December meeting

Item moved to end of agenda

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- b) Solid Waste Contract – Discuss questions raised at the City Council Hearing and Next Steps

Chairman McNelly advised the Committee that the City Council postponed their decision to approve the Solid Waste Contract due to the number of questions raised at the meeting.

Utility Services Manager Phyllis Garrova thanked Chairman McNelly for attending the City Council meeting and speaking on behalf of the Energy Resource Management Committee. The Council was concerned with public comments and questions about the proposed Trash Program. Garrova advised that she along with the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and the City's trash attorney met with Dave Ault and Mark McGee of MG Disposal to address the issues brought up at the Council meeting.

The program is even more enhanced than it was before. The City's next step is to meet individually with each Council Member. Individual workshops will be held in December and January to answer any questions. MG will launch a mailer to the public with information on the proposed program.

McGee - mentioned that two of the Council Members would have preferred a little more public process. Council Member Nelson was interested in unlimited service at no additional charge. Another concern was that if a lid was propped up, MG would not pick it up. McGee confirmed that MG will not charge for additional containers, a change from the original proposal to charge only for additional solid waste containers. Lids that are propped up are not a problem. Overly full containers cannot be serviced. MG would work with customers for whom this is a reoccurring problem. Additional trash during the holidays is accommodated through the bulky item pick up.

Ault – if a person needs an additional container that is all right, there is the situation that a resident will put an extra bag of trash next to their container; in most cases the drivers will get out and reload the automated container. However, the program is an automated program and not both manual and automated. If an extra bag is an ongoing problem, MG will make contact with that person.

MG's trucks are clean burning (LMG) and can service over 1,000 homes. They are more efficient and take fewer hours to do a route.

The 96-gallon container is normally the default size, but some areas would use a smaller size. MG will be working with staff to identify what areas need a different size container.

There was a misunderstanding about how easy it is to move the new containers. At the workshops a person from the audience will be selected to demonstrate the ease with which the containers can be moved.

Ault - touched on the limit on the diversion rate. SB1016 will modify the way we measure our waste reductions. The State can require a new base year study if the numbers do not look correct. With the automated program we will achieve a 6-9% increase in diversion city-wide that includes everything. Just looking at the residential diversion we will probably have a 30-35% increase in residential diversion. Looking at actual residential numbers last month, curbside amounted to 4,745 tons and the City was able to divert 2,721 tons for a net diversion rate of 43%. The City of Yorba Linda already has the Three Container Program and was able to reach a diversion rate of 58%. That is the advantage of the Three Container Program. A reason to change is that the State does not care how the trash is collected, but what you do with it after it is collected. The new program makes it possible to meet the State's diversion requirements.

Garrova – added that there was a concern with the placement of the containers. It sounds like, with this program, trash containers have to be put curbside and that is not true. Everything will remain as it is now. The public workshops will cover that subject. The \$3.55 charge for an additional container will go away.

Garrova – requested that the Committee agree and approve the enhancements to the proposed program.

Roberts – asked if Christmas tree pickup would still be available; what can be done with extra yard waste, and are plastic bags allowed in the recycling container? Does Yorba Linda generate more green waste? When people begin to separate everything will we find that people have less garbage?

McGee – said there will be a Christmas tree pickup, yard waste can be bundled, put in bags, or put into a container, reiterating this was never changed. If a person has a lot of yard waste call for a pickup. Yorba Linda does not have that much more yard waste than Fullerton. Once the program begins you will be amazed how easy it is.

McCormack – what extent is the outreach?

McGee – prior to going to City Council there will be town hall meetings one in December and two in January. The majority of the issues were yard waste. Garrova added that once the Council approves the program there will be more workshops.

McNelly – commented that the Observer mentioned a meeting in November and in December. He suggested that the City makes sure the Observer receives the correct information. He asked to be kept informed of the town hall meetings since he plans to attend all if possible.

MOTION by Committee Member Adamson to APPROVE the modified program, SECONDED by Committee Member McCormack and CARRIED unanimously by all members present.

c) Report on US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement Activity

Allen – the Committee's direction after review was to recommend that the City Council sign the agreement. In discussion with the City Manager on how to bring this to the Council for action the thought was to first bring it to Planning Commission for more policy and public discussion. The item was scheduled for Planning Commission's meeting on Wednesday, November 12. It was a long meeting and the Commission requested to move the item to the December 10th meeting.

Allen - there were questions why the City needed to sign on if the Kyoto targets are 2012. The response is that they need to sign on as a policy statement. There were also questions about measuring progress in meeting targets. Staff will be providing that information.

Brassett – said the attorney reviewed the agreement, has there been any additional information.

Allen replied no, the position is still the same. The statements made by the City would not be binding - more a policy position.

Mitchell – asked why the City Manager thought it was a good idea to go to Planning Commission first.

Allen – The City Manager wanted some additional policy discussion and background information so Council could see what the political climate was.

Mitchell – said that many Planning Commission members seemed to be conflicted as to why they would be looking at sustainability.

Allen – stated that she did not get that impression. Since some of the larger projects have gone before the Planning Commission there has been some realization of the importance of sustainability. The way the recommendation was written was to not only sign onto the agreement, but to direct staff to work with not only this committee, but also the Planning Commission, City Council and the public on developing a sustainability program for the City what ever that may be. If the Council didn't want to sign the agreement, they could still provide policy direction to move forward on developing a sustainability program

McCormack – asked what happens if the Planning Commission does not recommend signing the Agreement? Is information being presented regarding that requirements of AB32?

Allen – said if the Planning Commission recommended against signing the Agreement it would still move onto the City Council. The Staff Report focuses on signing the agreement but mentions other legislative requirements that are currently going on such as AB32 and SB375.

Buck – wondered when the Planning Commission reviews the Agreement on December 10th will there be anyone there from this Committee?

Allen – said she will be there and any member of this Committee is welcome to attend that meeting.

Roberts – commented we should know how we will measure compliance and how much will it cost to measure that compliance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public present

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

McNelly – There were 45-50 people at the last compost workshop. It was well attended. The City recently had to certify their waste discharge requirements, sewer system management plan, legal authority questions, operations and maintenance program.

Mitchell – had a conversation with the individual that does Public Relations for Chevron – Coyote Hills proposed development. She was invited to go on a tour in February. Would any member of the committee care to go on the tour?

Members interested in going:

Committee Member Brassett
Committee Member Twineham

Members agreed to decide on a date to go on the tour later

Energy and Resource Management Committee
November 19, 2008

Allen – reminded the Committee of the deferred action item regarding holding a December meeting

Committee Member Roberts MOVED to adjourn until January 21, 2009, SECONDED by Committee Member Bassett and CARRIED by all present.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 8:35 a.m.

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support